

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Food Prices, Rationing, and Bus Fare in Kwangtung	DATE DISTR.	10 December 1955 25X1
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [] prices of foods which were obtainable only in the cooperatives in Henggang (2897/1511), Hsingning Hsien (N 24-04, E 115-49) were as follows: 25X1

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price in New Yuan</u>
Pork	catty	.68
Rice	picul	14.00
Flour Cake	catty	.50
Potatoes	do	.50
Potato Flour	do	.30
Chicken	do	.60
Oil, black	do	.60
Sugar	do	.34
Vegetables	do	.10

Sugar was available only during festival time. Oil was limited to four ounces per person a month. Pregnant women were allowed to purchase 50 catties of rice wine; no one else could buy wine.

2. [] commodity prices in Meihsien (N 24-18, E 116-08) were as follows: 25X1

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Ration per Month</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price in New Yuan</u>
Rice	20 catties ¹	picul	13.00
Vegetable oil	$\frac{1}{2}$ catty	catty	.75
Sugar	10 ounces	do	.35
Kerosene	2 ounces per purchase	do	.50
Pork	1 catty	do	.60 - .70
Chicken	not stated	do	.65
Salt	not stated	do	.15

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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3. Once daily, a bus left Meihsien, traveled to Hoyuan (N 23-42, E 114-48) and arrived in Canton at 1400 hours the following afternoon. Bus fare from Meihsien to Canton was 16.40 new yuan.

4. commodity prices in Kungifou (N 22-26, E 112-46) were as follows:

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price in New Yuan</u>
Rice	picul	13.60
Pork	catty	.80
Chicken	do	.70 - .90
Kerosene	do	.55
Fish	do	.40 - .50
Salted Fish	do	.80
Salt	do	.15
Vegetables	do	.05
Peanut oil	do	.75

5. Residents of Kungifou were rationed to 15 catties of rice per month, and children received one-half of this rice ration. Overseas Chinese returning from Hong Kong were allowed to purchase 25 catties of rice each month, and Chinese returning from the United States received 30 catties each month. People were adding more vegetables, melons, roots, and other commodities to their diet, because the rice ration was inadequate for subsistence. Two bowls of cooked rice could be purchased at one time at a restaurant. Each person was permitted to purchase each month an unlimited amount of pork, four ounces of sugar, and six ounces of peanut oil. Kerosene was limited to two ounces per purchase. Sweet potatoes, biscuits, and flour were not available on the local market.

1. Comment. The rice ration was not the same in the various ch'u in Meihsien. The ration for Chinese Communist officials, cadre, and people in the city was 20 catties per month. In the country rice was rationed according to the quantity stored. For example, in Sungk'ou (N 24-27, E 116-26) the ration was 15 catties per month, and in Yuk'eng (N 23-57, E 116-10) the ration was 10 catties per month.

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